

Dated: December 30, 1998.

Richard W. Moreland,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. 99-241 Filed 1-5-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

North American Free-Trade Agreement, Article 1904 NAFTA Panel Reviews; Request for Panel Review

AGENCY: NAFTA Secretariat, United States Section, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of First Request for Panel Review.

SUMMARY: On December 23, 1998, Allied Tube and Conduit Company, the Sawhill Tubular Division of Armco, Inc., and Wheatland Tube Company filed a First Request for Panel Review with the United States Section of the NAFTA Secretariat pursuant to Article 1904 of the North American Free Trade Agreement. Panel review was requested of the Final Scope Ruling on the antidumping order respecting Circular Welded Non-Alloy Steel Pipe and Tube from Mexico; Galvak, S.A. de C.V. This determination was made by the International Trade Administration and served on the Embassy of Mexico in Washington, D.C. on November 30, 1998. The NAFTA Secretariat has assigned File Number USA-MEX-98-1904-05 to this request.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James R. Holbein, United States Secretary, NAFTA Secretariat, Suite 2061, 14th and Constitution Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20230, (202) 482-5438.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Chapter 19 of the North American Free-Trade Agreement ("Agreement") establishes a mechanism to replace judicial review of final determinations in antidumping and countervailing duty cases involving imports from a NAFTA country with review by independent binational panels. When a Request for Panel Review is filed, a panel is established to act in place of national courts to review expeditiously the final determination to determine whether it conforms with the antidumping or countervailing duty law of the country that made the determination.

Under Article 1904 of the Agreement, which came into force on January 1, 1994, the Government of the United States, the Government of Canada and

the Government of Mexico established *Rules of Procedure for Article 1904 Binational Panel Reviews* ("Rules"). These Rules were published in the **Federal Register** on February 23, 1994 (59 FR 8686).

A first Request for Panel Review was filed with the U.S. Section of the NAFTA Secretariat, pursuant to Article 1904 of the Agreement, on December 23, 1998, requesting panel review of the final scope ruling described above.

The Rules provide that:

(a) A Party or interested person may challenge the final determination in whole or in part by filing a Complaint in accordance with Rule 39 within 30 days after the filing of the First Request for Panel Review (the deadline for filing a Complaint in January 22, 1999);

(b) A Party, investigating authority or interested person that does not file a Complaint but that intends to appear in support of any reviewable portion of the final determination may anticipate in the panel review by filing a Notice of Appearance in accordance with Rule 40 within 45 days after the filing of the first Request for Panel Review (the deadline for filing a Notice of Appearance is February 8, 1999); and

(c) The panel review shall be limited to the allegations for error of fact or law, including the jurisdiction of the investigating authority, that are set out in the Complaints filed in the panel review and the procedural and substantive defenses raised in the panel review.

Dated: December 28, 1998.

James R. Holbein,

United States Secretary, NAFTA Secretariat.

[FR Doc. 99-124 Filed 1-4-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 123098E]

Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on Habitat Conservation Plans for the Operation of Three Hydroelectric Projects on the Mid-Columbia River in Washington

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of intent to conduct public scoping meetings and prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that NMFS intends to gather

information necessary to prepare an EIS related to a request by two Washington State public utility districts for incidental take permits (Permits) to take endangered and threatened species under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act (Act). The applicants are the Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County, Washington and the Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County, Washington (Districts). Applications are related to the operation of three hydroelectric projects on the mid-Columbia River in the state of Washington. The Districts are requesting Permits for two listed species, Upper Columbia spring chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and Upper Columbia steelhead (*O. mykiss*). The Districts also plan to seek coverage for other species not currently listed in the mid-Columbia region. These species are summer and fall chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*) and sockeye (*O. nerka*) salmon. Based on the requirements of the Act, the Districts have prepared Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) that include measures to minimize and mitigate any taking of species that may occur incidental to the operation of the hydroelectric projects.

In June 1998, NMFS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Districts, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakima Indian Nation, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Colville Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation and American Rivers, Inc. signed a declaration acknowledging the work to date on the HCP and their commitment to complete the regulatory actions necessary to issuing a permit.

DATES: Written comments from all interested parties must be received on or before February 5, 1999. Public scoping meetings will be held in Wenatchee and Brewster, WA. The Wenatchee meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., January 20, 1999, at the Chelan Public Utility District Auditorium, 327 N. Wenatchee Ave. The Brewster meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on January 21, 1999, at the Senior Center, 109 South Bridge St.

ADDRESSES: Comments and requests for information should be sent to Jane Banyard, NMFS, 510 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 103, Lacey, WA, 98503; telephone (360) 534-9338; facsimile (360) 753-9517. Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the same address. Questions regarding the HCPs should be directed to Steve Landino, NMFS, 510 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 103, Lacey, WA, 98503;